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REPORT NO. 

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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DATE DISTR. 30 Nov 53

SUBJECT 1. Biogena, National Corporation,  
in Roztoky  
2. Penicillin, Gamma Globulin, and  
Streptomycin Supply

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE  
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1. Biogena, National Corporation, in Roztoky N 50-10, E 14-247 was a plant for production of penicillin, perocillin (penicillin in tablet form), and gamma globulin. The administrative offices of this plant were located in Prague 3, Malostranske Square. The plant was an independent unit subordinate to the Ministry of Health.
2. The factory area was old; I do not know for what purpose it was originally used. In the fall of 1938 the factory was taken over by the then United Chemical Works, and production of colored printer's ink and of bronze for various purposes started there at that time. The United Chemical Works started this production in the Roztoky plant in order to make up for the loss of the colored printer's ink production in the factories at Usti nad Labem and at Kozolupy N 49-46, E 13-157. These two factories had been the property of the United Chemical Works until the German occupation of the Czechoslovak border regions in October 1938. In 1949 it was decided to turn the Roztoky factory over to the Ministry of Health and to start production of penicillin there. The production of colored printer's ink and of bronze was transferred from the Roztoky factory to a factory for production of paints and lacquers in Prague-Vysocany which belonged at the time to the United Chemical Works. The whole factory area in Roztoky was completely rebuilt. The buildings were enlarged and one new large production building constructed. The construction started in 1949 and was finally completed in the first half of 1952.
3. Docent Dr. SKODA, manager of the United Chemical Works until 1945, was charged in 1949 with the reconstruction of the Roztoky factory and with the development of penicillin production there. He was named government plenipotentiary for this purpose. (Dr. SKODA was forced to leave the United Chemical Works in 1945 because of his alleged collaboration with

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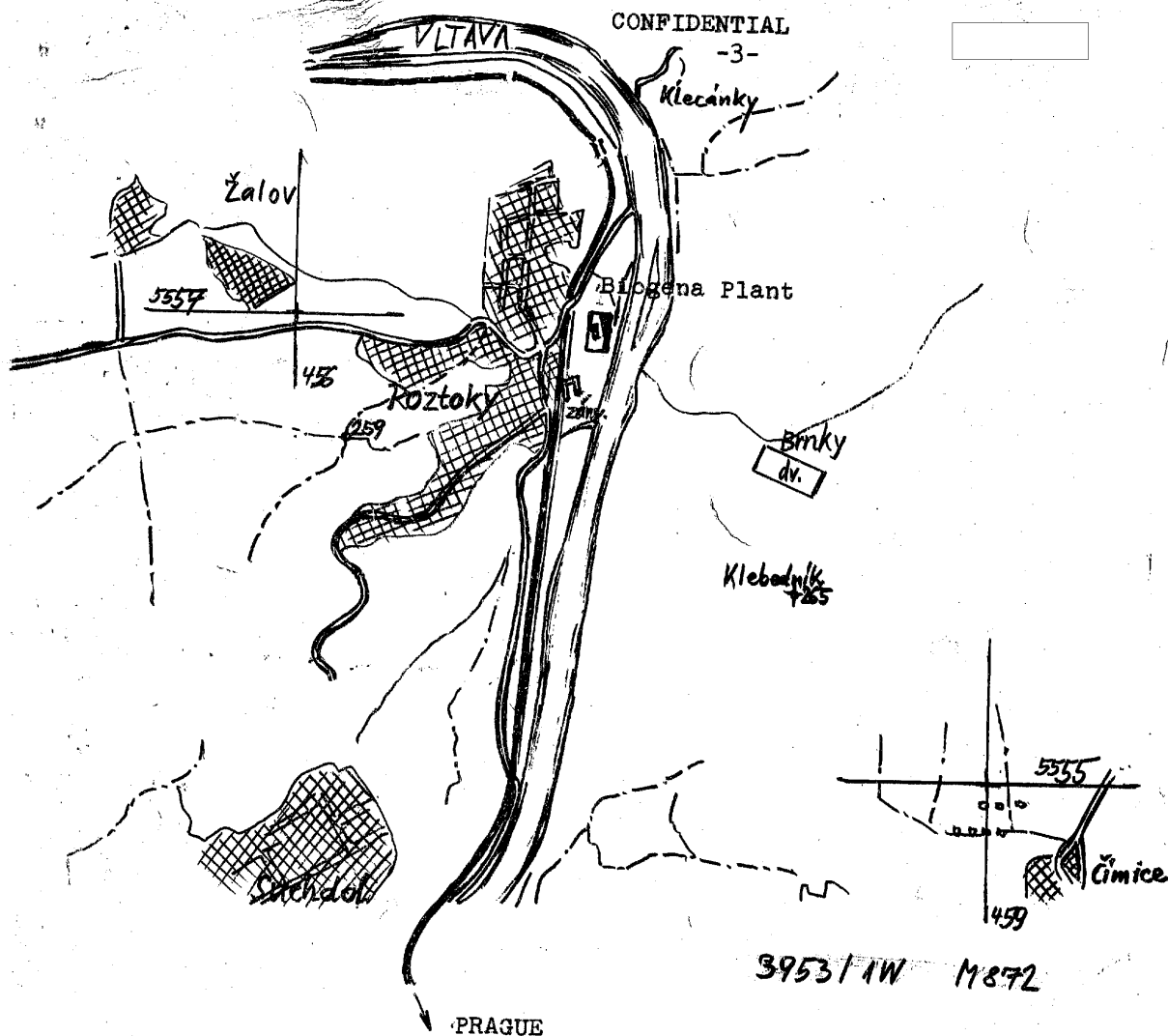
the Germans during World War II. However, through a personal friendship with ZAPOTOCKY, later President of the Republic, SKODA was assigned to this important position.)

4. The plant was located on the western side of the Prague to Podmokly N 50-46, E 14-12 railroad, close to it, between the railroad and the Vltava River. For the exact location of the factory, see Annex A. For the plant layout, see Annex B. There was no spur track to the factory, and the river was not used for transportation purposes. All transportation to and from the plant was by truck on a second-class road.
5. The penicillin production equipment was delivered to Czechoslovakia by UNRRA in 1945. This equipment was idle until 1949 pending a decision on where the factory would be located. I do not know where the equipment for the production of perocillin and gamma globulin came from. The Roztoky factory was equipped with large laboratories for testing raw materials and ready-made products and for research. Some physicians and pharmacists here were engaged in research on new remedies. I do not know any details. The factory was supplied with electricity from the Prague-Holesovice power plant. In general, the factory was very well equipped and modern.
6. The production of penicillin started in 1951. There were complaints about the quality of the product and physicians recommended (only to their personal friends, of course) using penicillin imported from the West. Chemapol was in charge of importing penicillin into Czechoslovakia. The last imports of penicillin took place in 1951, and since 1952 all the Czechoslovak penicillin requirements have been covered by the Roztoky production. The production of perocillin and production of gamma globulin started later on but I do not know the quantities produced. None of these products was exported as of 1952, but there were rumors that export of the Roztoky products would start in the near future. In 1951 the factory planned to start production of streptomycin according to Soviet methods. The equipment was also to come from the USSR. The Soviets considered that their streptomycin was of a better quality than that produced in the West. I know that in the meantime streptomycin production started in Czechoslovakia but I do not know in which plant it took place.
7. Despite the complaints about the quality of the product, so far as I know, the Roztoky factory faced only normal difficulties common to every new plant. There were about 100 employees in the factory in 1951 - most of them were women, and there were 40 employees in the administrative offices in Prague. The plant had a plant militia of its own.

## Annexes:

- A. Location of the Biogena Plant in Roztoky
- B. Plant Layout of the Biogena Plant in Roztoky

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Annex A: Location of the Biogena Plant in Roztoky  
Overlay of Map, Czechoslovakia 3953/1W, M 872

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Annex B: Plant Layout of the Biogena Plant in Roztoky

